(b) what is the present number of LPG connections existing in the city ; and

(c) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) 87,000 (approx.)

(b) 2,13,800 (approx.)

(c) Efforts are constantly on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible subject to availability of LPG.

Oil exploration off Pondicherry coast

2195. DR. ABRAR AHMED :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil exploration activity off the Pondicherry-Cuddalore coast is likely to be called off shortly ;

(b) since when the drilling in the area has been going on and what are the results so far ; and

(c) what are the reasons for calling off the activities ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Exploratory drilling in this area started with the drilling of first well in July '78, which proved dry. In the last two years 4 wells have been drilled without establishing any hydro-carbon reserves.

(c) Does not arise.

Restructuring of ONGC and Oil

2196. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to change the structure of ONGC and Oil India Limited (OIL) to improve its functioning ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government also propose to promote the private sector participation in these two PSUs ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) by when the structure of these two PSUs is likely to be changed ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a), (b) and (e) Government have constituted a Committee to examine all organisational aspects of ONGC and recommend any structural change The Committee is expected to submit its report by 31-8-1992. There is no proposal to restructure Oil India Ltd.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Waiting list for LPG in Madhya Pradesh

2197. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that new LPG connections have not been released to the waiting consumers in the State of Madhya Pradesh for the last several years ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the cut off dates for release of LPG connections in 45

districts of the State upto which the connections have been provided ;

(c) the number of persons registered alongwith their names for LPG connections in the State who are still in the waiting list ; and

(d) by when Government propose to provide LPG connections to all the registered persons in Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 3·81 lakh as on 1-4-1992.

(d) Efforts are constantly on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible, subject to availability of product.

Exploration of Tapti Gas fields

2198. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 2174 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11th March, 1992 and state :

(a) what is the Eighth Plan allocation for exploration of Tapti Gas fields and the gas likely to be allocated therefrom to Gujarat ; and

(b) what would be the gas allocation therefrom to the power projects of Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) No decision has been taken to develop the Tapti gas fields.

Allocation of Petroleum Product Dealerships

2199. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of dealerships awarded by various oil companies to sell petroleum products from the discretionary quota of the Minister during the last one year till date statewise and itemwise ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : From July, 1991, till 30th June, 1992, nineteen retail outlets, forty nine LPG distributorships and eleven SKO/LDO dealerships were alloted by the Government at their discretion. As discretionary allotments are made by the Government on compassionate grounds, the issue of State-wise allocation does not arise.

Allocation of Kerosene to Gujarat

2200. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL :
SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL :
SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Government has requested the Central Government to allocate kerosene as per the earlier practice of seven to seven and a half per cent growth rate ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.